

Application No. 10/829,253
Amendment dated December 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2007

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1, 2 and 5 to 16 remain in the application.

A new set of formal drawings is herein submitted for the Examiner's consideration. The new drawings are simply of better quality.

The dependency of Claims 6 and 8 have been corrected.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Manaras et al. (CA 2,112,350).

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

Manaras' pulley 36 is not fixedly mounted to shaft 18. At pages 7, lines 3 to 4, it is clearly stated that: *a pulley 36 being mounted for free rotation around shaft 18 (emphasis added)*.

Also, see page 8, second paragraph, where it is clearly stated that drive gear 30 and the shaft 18 are first prevented from rotating together with the pulley 36. Accordingly, it is false to pretend that the pulley 36 drives the shaft 18 in rotation while the shaft 18 is being slid axially in tube 16 in order to engage drive gear with driven gear 74. Indeed, according to Manaras, the rotation of the pulley 36 is first solely used to cause the roller 42 to roll on cam 44 which is fixed on shaft 18, thereby causing shaft 18 to be slid axially. During the axial movement, there is no rotation. The finger 28 locks the shaft 18 against rotation. Manaras' system would simply not work if the pulley 36 was fixed or keyed to shaft 18 since finger 28 would prevent the rotation of the shaft and, thus, of the pulley when gear 26 is in its idle position as shown in Figure 1. The pulley 36 must be free to rotate relative to shaft 18 in order to permit movement of the drive gear 26 from its idle position to its operating position. This is contrary to the claimed invention.

Manaras' pulley 36 only becomes in rotational driving engagement with shaft 18 once the gear 26 disengages from finger 28 and at this stage the pulley is coupled to the shaft solely via the cam 44 and, thus, not directly to the shaft. This constitutes a further difference between the claimed invention and Manaras' invention. Manaras' system is disadvantageous in that

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the pulley has to be mounted next to the cam, which prevents the pulley from being selectively installed at either end of the shaft 18.

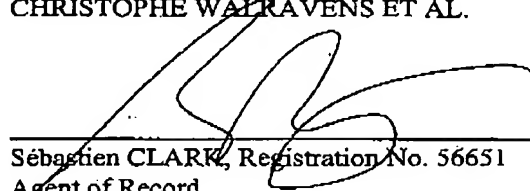
If the Examiner is not convinced of the patentability of the claims on file, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview with the undersigned Agent of Record to advance the prosecution of the present application. The prior art cited by the Examiner belongs to the same Assignee as the present application. Applicant is well aware of the limitations and drawbacks of the cited reference and is well disposed to discuss them with the Examiner if need be.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHE WAIKRAVENS ET AL.

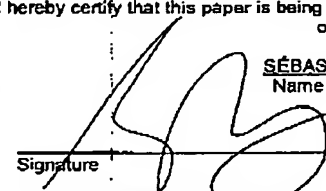
By:

December 19, 2007
Date


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APPENDIX

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 to 6. The new drawings are submitted as being of better quality.